

A DOCUMENTARY BY MARGIT LILLAK




PRESS KIT

# the CIRCLE

allfilm





To change  
the world,  
one needs  
to start  
within.





## Synopsis

The film follows a newly formed eco-community starting from 2014 with blissful beginnings to their apocalyptic collapse in 2019. A group of 12 adults together with 6 kids step out of society as we know it, deconstructing the basic pillars of life - from nuclear family to education, advocating for sustainable living and non-violent communication. Narrative structure shapes itself around the founders of the commune, 2 strong emancipated women who fall into a power struggle triggered by a love triangle. Families split, friendships are compromised, ideals lost. The director has been closely involved in the community processes, hence the intimate access to very strong emotional scenes.



## Director's statement

My personal motivation for making this film lay in the interest in human psychology, behaviour in closed group processes, under pressure, patterns that affect our behaviour in relations to others. The dynamics that surface in a closed group like the community are a big revelation. Masks fall off until it's just bare authentic self with shadow and light. The basic human need and deprivation of love and touch is a universal theme, which affects all of ours' behaviour. In my film we see a new way of dealing with very strong emotions, that at some point turns into a Dogma-like performance, on the border of reality and acting.







Director **MARGIT LILLAK** (1974) graduated from the Estonian Academy of Art as a set designer in 1999. In 2002, Margit graduated from the Royal Holloway College in England with a MA degree in screenwriting. She has directed several short documentaries out of which “Pastacas” was awarded with the main prize at the EstDocs Film Festival competition in Toronto. In 2012 she directed her first feature-length documentary “40+2 weeks” as a first-person film about her own pregnancy and home-birth. “The Circle” is her second feature-length film.



Producer **JOHANNA TRASS** (1979) joined Allfilm at 2001. During the next years produced over 200 TV-commercials, edited some music videos and sound recorded one featurefilm. Since 2012 has been line producing feature films and producing several documentaries.

Production company **ALLFILM** is an Academy Award and Golden Globe nominated production house operating since 1995. The company’s scope of activity varies from developing and producing quality features, documentaries and TV series. The company also provides extensive production services for international films. With a permanent staff of twelve, Allfilm is the largest production company in Estonia with partners in Europe, South-East Asia, Russia and the USA.





# the CIRCLE

DIRECTOR: Margit Lillak  
DOP: Margit Lillak, Mihkel Soe, Paavo Eensalu  
EDITORS: Jaak Ollino Jr, Helis Hirve  
SOUND: Mart Otsa  
SOUND DESIGN: Harmo Kallaste  
COMPOSER: Sten Sheripov  
PRODUCER: Johanna Trass

RUNNING TIME: 95 min  
FORMAT: DCP  
SCREEN RATIO: 16:9  
SOUND FORMAT: 5.1  
LANGUAGE: Estonian, English

WORLD PREMIERE: 25th October 2019 – Ji.hlava IDFF  
DOMESTIC PREMIERE: 29th January 2020 – DocPoint Tallinn

FILM WEBPAGE: [allfilm.ee/work/the-circle/](http://allfilm.ee/work/the-circle/)  
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